

Common and Proper Nouns

STRATEGY: COMMON AND PROPER NOUNS

TEACH/PRACTICE

REVIEW/RETEACH

Student Objectives

- Identify common and proper nouns.
- Capitalize proper nouns correctly.
- Use underlining, quotations marks, or italics for titles of works.

Materials

- Practice: Common and Proper Nouns

Writing Tip

Specific writing is usually more interesting and more believable. Use proper nouns to make your writing more specific.

Teach/Model

Remind students that nouns name things. Point to items in the room to review nouns.

- Define **common noun**. *A common noun names a person, place, or thing: student, city, or book. Common nouns do not begin with a capital letter.*
- Define **proper noun**. *A proper noun names a specific person, place, or thing: Harriet Tubman, Sacramento, World War II.*
Explain that a proper noun always begins with a capital letter. If the proper noun consists of more than one word, the first letter of each important word is capitalized. For example: Hanley Junior High School.
- Explain to students that titles are also set apart by underlining, italics, or quotation marks. It is different for different types of titles.
- Write the following examples on the board. Use the model to guide students to an understanding of common and proper nouns.

Example	Model/Think Aloud
Common Nouns girl street holiday product country movie	<i>Any person, place, or thing is a common noun. Some things cannot be seen, like ideas (justice) or feelings (hope), but they are still nouns. A common noun always begins with a lowercase letter.</i>
Proper Nouns Nina Broadway Hanukkah Zowz Guatemala Lord of the Rings	<i>The name of a specific person, place, or thing is a proper noun. Proper nouns always begin with a capital letter. This includes all titles of books, movies, songs, poems, and TV shows. These also include the names of holidays, geographic names, and product names. For proper nouns of two or more words, capitalize the first letter of each important word.</i>
	<i>Titles of books, movies, songs, poems, and TV shows are also set apart by underlining, italics, or quotation marks. Titles of books, movies, and TV shows are put in italics or underlined. Titles of articles, poems, and songs are put in quotation marks.</i>

(Continued)

Common and Proper Nouns (Continued)

Examples	
Common Nouns	Proper Nouns
teacher	Mr. Harper
country	Mexico
weekday	Thursday
place	Niagara Falls
Titles That Are Italicized or Underlined	Titles in Quotation Marks
<i>Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone</i> (book title)	"O Captain! My Captain!" (poem)
<i>Maya and Miguel</i> (TV show)	"The Star-Spangled Banner" (song)
<i>The Hunger Games: Catching Fire</i> (movie title)	

► Guided Practice/Apply

Write the following words on the board. Have students decide whether each word is a common noun or a proper noun. Ask them to explain how they know.

1. toy (*common noun, a thing*)
2. Frisbee (*proper noun, a specific toy*)
3. Uncle Ray (*proper noun, a specific person*)
4. uncle (*common noun, a category of person*)
5. restaurant (*common noun, a category of place or thing*)
6. time (*common noun, a thing/idea*)
7. Japan (*proper noun, a specific place*)
8. anger (*common noun, a thing/feeling*)
9. Easter (*proper noun, a specific holiday*)
10. Zowz Sneakerz (*proper noun, a specific product*)

Write the following words on the board. Have students identify the words that need to be capitalized. Then ask them to either underline or put in quotation marks the title based on what type of work it is, such as a book, movie, or poem. Ask them to explain how they know.

1. Winnie-the-Pooh (*proper noun, a book*)
2. Toy Story (*proper noun, a movie*)
3. "The Raven" (*proper noun, a poem*)

Assign **Practice**. Have students check their recent writing to see if their proper nouns begin with a capital letter.